

HANDS ALONG THE NILE

2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of HANDS,

Sitting on the porch of Bob's home in Chautauqua, New York after a fruitful board meeting, we reflect on the past year. The lush green trees and flowering geraniums surrounding us seem a world away from the bustling streets of Cairo and the dusty lanes of Egyptian villages that we visited just a few months ago.

These trips to Egypt are an inspiring reminder of why HANDS exists: to build partnerships between Americans and Egyptians, both to increase cross-cultural understanding and to support local community development efforts. On our last trip, we met a young widow, raising five children, whose house HANDS had been privileged to help rebuild. We stopped by a classroom full of young girls attending a life-skills workshop, who were there because of funding from HANDS. When queried as to what they were learning, one girl eagerly responded, "We've been learning that we are just as important as boys." A young doctor led us on a tour of his village, where he is working to improve the nutritional level of all the babies. The program exists because of support from Americans like you, who are concerned about the people of the Middle East.

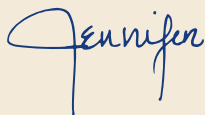
It has been a privilege to work with our 27 different Egyptian partners as well as with the "HANDS family" across the U.S. to build partnerships that bring hope to both of our societies. In addition to the community development efforts that HANDS has participated in for the past 16 years, we are responding to the growing need to develop understanding between the peoples of the West and of the Middle East. Through bi-annual Insight Trips to Egypt, sales of handicrafts made by girls in a HANDS-supported project, educational workshops, and our Egyptian American Dialogue program launched in 2004, we are gradually building a bridge to cross the sea of misunderstanding that separates our two regions.

As you read more about these exciting programs in the following pages, know that much of the credit goes to our last Executive Director, Karen Souryal. Karen was the driving force at HANDS from 1999 to the end of 2004. Our recently awarded USAID grant was applied for under Karen's leadership. The capacity to run this organization with only 12 percent administrative costs is thanks to Karen's management. The Egyptian American Dialogue was also started at her initiative. Although Karen has moved on to pursue other dreams, fortunately for us she is still very active at HANDS as the Treasurer of the Board and as a volunteer consultant.

Join us as we look back at 2004. There is much to celebrate and much yet to be done!



Robert Jay Ludwig
President



Jennifer A. Cate
Executive Director



Bob and Jennifer in New York

On the front cover, from top: A young Egyptian mother attending health and nutrition classes; Two girls studying literacy and weaving at a HANDS-supported program; a shepherd in Beni Ghani Village. *On the back cover, from top:* Meeting villagers whose communities benefit from HANDS support; planting a tree in a school yard; hopeful smiles in an Egyptian village.

EGYPTIAN AMERICAN DIALOGUE

Launched in 2004, the Egyptian American Dialogue is a citizen diplomacy effort that brings together academicians, journalists, civil society leaders, and religious leaders to discuss differences and explore similarities across the two cultures. Local groups, composed of both Americans and Egyptian-Americans, have been discussing such issues as the role of education and the media in creating perceptions of the other culture. The Egyptian American dialogue is about to enter a new phase. We are pleased to announce our first international dialogue, to be held in November 2005, with delegates from Egypt. As participants develop a better understanding of each others' culture and cultivate new friendships, they will initiate joint projects bringing to their sphere of influence a fresh perspective on the other society that ultimately promotes intercultural appreciation and a push for peace.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

Families, individuals, organizations, and congregations throughout the US joined hands in 2004 with our various Egyptian partner organizations to bring sustainable community development to the villages and cities of Egypt. Their support, communication, and in some cases, volunteer work enables Egyptian community development projects to succeed. As the events of the year unfolded, bringing news of increased violence and heightened intercultural tensions, the importance of projects that bring economic and social stability to Egypt was highlighted. The following page describes the various projects with which Americans are able to build partnerships through HANDS.

Above, playing with children at an orphanage in Upper Egypt; below, meeting villagers whose homes HANDS has helped rebuild.



INSIGHT TRIPS

Reenergizing HANDS' Insight Trip program was a focus in 2004, which involved taking two different groups to Egypt. These adventures allow Americans to explore the history, culture, religions, cuisine, and modern lifestyle of Egyptians. Going beyond the pyramids and ancient bazaar, HANDS' guests have the unique opportunity to dine with local families, dialogue with cultural experts, and offer a hand at local community development projects.



SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ALEXANDRIA AND THE DELTA (AREA 1)

- **FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED** trains the mentally-challenged and slow learners in basic language and math skills as well as in sewing, carpentry, agriculture, weaving, and factory work.
- **THE KHASHAA CAMP**, being rebuilt since its destruction in the war of 1967, will provide a summer camp experience for underprivileged teenagers.
- **THE CENTER FOR HOPE AND A CURE** is a clinic that treats low-income residents of Alexandria for minimal and even waived fees.
- **THE TANTA AMERICAN HOSPITAL** has a 104-year history of meeting the medical needs of Egypt's third largest city. Current renovations, including the addition of a residential unit for the elderly, are making it possible for this hospital to continue serving the community, maintaining the American standards for which it has been known.
- **BEIT EL SALAAM** is a seaside camp offering special rates for low-income teenagers to enjoy the physical, social, and spiritual programs with other young adults.
- **THE VILLAGE OF HOPE** teaches mentally-challenged young adults how to handle house hold chores as well as to generate an income. The center's bakery, green house, road-side market, and woodworking shop enable the residents to produce and sell goods.
- **KASR DUBARA'S WADI NOUTROUN SPORTS CAMP**, currently under construction, will house 1000 youth for retreats and sports camps.
- **ATTARINE PROTESTANT CHURCH** is constructing a community center that includes a computer training center, a girls' dormitory, a nursing home for the elderly, and a vocational training center.

CAIRO AND GIZA (AREA 2)

- **THE FORUM FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE** is a program of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) that brings together Egyptian citizens across religious, gender, and professional lines to work towards greater unity and making a positive impact on the culture.
- **THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (APE)** helps daughters of garbage collectors achieve their educational goals and learn a marketable skill. The woven rugs, quilts, and recycled paper products that they make are sold by HANDS at venues around the US.
- **THINK AND DO** provides micro credit loans to help poor families start small businesses such as rug-weaving, ghee-making, second-hand clothes mobile carts, bicycle repair shops, and barber shops.





CAIRO AND GIZA, CONTINUED

- **ESTABLE ANTAR**, where HANDS has an **URBAN PARTNERSHIP** project with the work of **CEOSS**, is a squatter settlement in Cairo. Through CEOSS' comprehensive development model, this under-served area is seeing many improvements. Homes are being equipped with water, latrines and electricity. Working children are being given the means to attend school. Families are receiving small loans to start businesses., and women are learning to read and write. In order to sustain this development work into the future, members of local community development organizations also are being trained in leadership, project management, and organizational development.
- **THE CENTER FOR GERIATRIC SERVICES** provides housing and care for 70 elderly residents of Cairo.
- **THE CAIRO EVANGELICAL MEDICAL CENTER** provides inexpensive treatment to local residents, including those unable to pay for services.
- **THE GREEN PASTURES MEDICAL CENTER** serves the poor in El Salam City through its dispensary and clinic.
- **THE CLINIC AND DAYCARE CENTER** in Sharabeyya serve the needs of this low-income area of Cairo.
- **FAGGALA CHURCH** provides support for the medical, educational, and psychological needs of the poor in its vicinity.
- **THE HELIOPOLIS PROTESTANT CHURCH** is conducting renovations of its 83 year old building to support a growing congregation and busy schedule of ministries.
- **THE PROTESTANT CHURCH OF ABU TIG** provides spiritual, physical, and social services to the residents of this town.
- **ROD EL FARAG CHURCH'S** renovations will provide a community center for the neighborhood where the youth can congregate.
- **THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF CAIRO** trains both male and female leaders

from across the Middle East. The Center for the Study of Middle East Christianity is currently being constructed on its grounds.

- **THE SYNOD OF THE NILE'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH COMMITTEE** organizes conferences, camps, service projects, and a library for young people across Egypt.

UPPER EGYPT (AREA 3)

- Supporting the work of **CEOSS**, HANDS' **VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP** with the community of **ASHMONEEN**, has brought electricity, running water, latrines, restored dirt homes, girls' education classes, loans for poultry and goats, and capacity building of local organizations to this community built on the ruins of an ancient Pharoanic town.
- **THE LILLIAN TRASHER ORPHANAGE**, founded in 1911 by a young American woman, has been home to over 20,000 children. The nurturing environment provides the foundation they need to attend college, marry, work, and raise their own families.
- **THE NEW MINIA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** will be a community center providing conference and activity space for a new suburb of Minia.
- **THE MINIA SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S** building renovations will better support the spiritual meetings of the congregation as well as college dorms, a day care center, and a dispensary for the community.
- **THE MINIA THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** is renovating its sanctuary, rectory, and kindergarten.
- **THE MINIA FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EL EKSAS** is constructing a community hall for social and spiritual events as well as weddings and funerals.
- **HERZ PROTESTANT CHURCH**, which serves a primarily farming community, is renovating its 120-year-old building to provide for a church office, classrooms, and a hall for weddings and funerals.

USAID GRANT FUNDS MINIA CLINIC

HANDS is completing negotiations with USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program on a grant USAID has approved to establish a community-based eye clinic. The clinic will be located in the upper Egyptian governorate of Minia, one of the least developed areas in Egypt. One of the major problems that the clinic will tackle is the prevalence of trachoma, now hyper-endemic in Egypt, especially among women, who are blinded by it two to three times more often than are men. The clinic will be run by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), a long-time HANDS partner.



In 2004, Hands Along the Nile received generous support from many individuals and institutions, including those listed here.

Cheops Club (\$10,000 and over)

Sabry and Samira Awadalla
American Baptist Church,
International Ministries
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Felix and Fouzia El Daief
The Ford Foundation
Latif and Matilda Gowani
Suzan Habachy
Greta Hanna
Robert and Susan Laubach
Robert Ludwig
The Riverside Foundation
Momtaz and Mona Wahba

Gold Cartouche Circle

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Adel and Ghada Bassali
Hany Girgis
Makram and Hetty Girgis
Yvonne Fanous

Silver Scarab Society (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Mary and Daniel Coughlan
First Presbyterian Church of
Wooster, Ohio
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church
David and Jeanette Ibrahim
Charles and Elizabeth Nordquist
Mayer and Samira Saad
Fouad and Lucy Souryal
Michael and Karen Souryal

Papyrus Club (\$1,000-\$1,999)

Roger and Whitney Bagnall
Ragaa and Victoria Benjamin
Beau and Rosemary Boulter
Calvin Presbyterian Church
(Ellwood, PA)
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
(New York, NY)
Mourad and Ardis Ghobrial
John Goldingay
Adel and Nadia Makary
Brian Mark and Karen Sauer
Ken and Mona Mason
Clair Michael
William and Connie Petrie
Gordon and Betty Shull
Ivonne Souryal
Grace Upshaw

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(as of August 1, 2005)

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Ivana Vesolinovic-Smucker,
Development Officer
Anne Marsa, Dialogue Coordinator

2004 VOLUNTEER HOURS: OVER 2,000!

Thank you to our Board members, interns, office volunteers, craft sale hosts, and others who so generously give of their time!

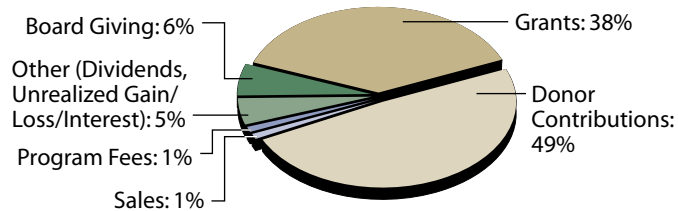
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION^(a)

Assets	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$55,969
Investments	237,105
Accounts receivable—other	2,175
Grants receivable	100,000
Promises to give	28,000
Prepaid expenses	<u>28,248</u>
Total current assets	451,497
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and fixtures	2,901
Computer equipment	<u>5,288</u>
Total	8,189
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>3,194</u>
Property and equipment, net	4,995
OTHER ASSETS:	
Security deposits	1,455
Promises to give, net of current portion	<u>28,000</u>
Total other assets	29,455
Total Assets	\$485,947
Liabilities and Net Assets	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Grants in Transit to Egypt	\$79,388
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	<u>3,227</u>
Total current liabilities	82,615
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	303,332
Temporarily restricted	<u>100,000</u>
Total net assets	403,332
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$485,947

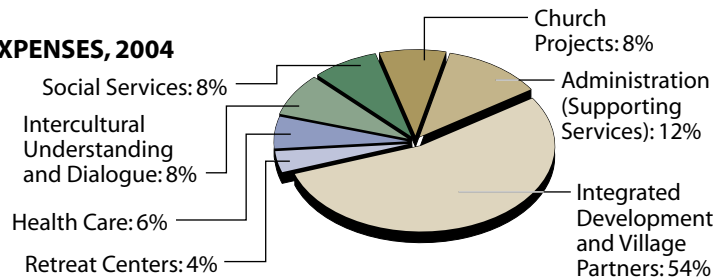
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES^(a)

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ^(b)	TOTAL
Support and Revenue			
Contributions	\$164,529	\$242,901	\$407,430
Grants -	275,000	275,000	
Interest and investment income	8,956	-	8,956
Program fees	5,150	-	5,150
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	28,277	-	28,277
Sales income	5,788	-	5,788
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>471,901</u>	<u>(471,901)</u>	-
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	684,601	46,000	730,601
Expenses			
Program services			
Grants released from restrictions	741,886	-	741,886
Other program services	90,339	-	90,339
Supporting services			
Management and general	82,390	-	82,390
Fundraising	<u>28,184</u>	-	<u>28,184</u>
Net expenses	942,799	-	942,799
Change in net assets	(258,198)	46,000	(212,198)
Net assets, beginning of year	561,530	54,000	615,530
Net assets, end of year	\$303,332	\$100,000	\$403,332

INCOME, 2004



EXPENSES, 2004



^(a) As of December 1, 2004. All figures are audited. The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

^(b) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.



HANDS ALONG THE NILE

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